

Ag Conference Call Notes
January 17, 2007
9 a.m.

Present: Tom McCarthy, Trent Lambert, Cindy Martens, Ken Hessenius, Dan Olson, Ted Petersen, Jim Sievers, Randy Clark, Bob Palla, Gene Tinker, Karen Grimes

Accounting for N in Solid Manure from Open Lots- This was a topic from last month that is still under review. For the time being plan writers may use the ISU PM1811 publication that allows for a 45% loss of N. It is the DNR's concern that while the 45% of nitrogen that is not available in the 1st three years may indeed become part of the soil organic matter, at some point that will be mineralized and become available for crop use. This will be especially important on fields where manure is applied year after year. Gene will continue to work with management and ISU to come to a science based policy on this issue.

N removal for continuous corn w/ stalks baled- This was also a topic from last month that was answered by John Sawyer of ISU. John stated that they would not recommend increasing the nitrogen rate to account for the N removed with baled corn stalks or corn silage. This is the guidance that we will follow for NMP's and MMP's.

Out of State Manure applied in Iowa-If a facility is out of state and hires a certified applicator to apply their manure in Iowa, Iowa Code paragraph 459.312(1)(b) requires the applicator (rather than the operation) of manure from an out-of-state confinement operation to submit an MMP. The paragraph states "The following persons shall submit a manure management plan, including an original manure management plan and an updated manure management plan, as required in this section to the department: "b" A person who applies manure from a confinement feeding operation, other than a small animal feeding operation, which is located in another state, if the manure is applied on land located in this state."

NMP's-Unless federal rules change before they become final the NMP's will be due on 7/31/07 from facilities that are permitted and have an NPDES permit. They are primarily large open cattle lots. Ken and Gene will be working on a method to track and record the submittal of these plans. These facilities have been informed of the requirement through the issuance of their NPDES permit, but a reminder letter will be sent from the field offices around March 1st. This letter will also remind the producers about the quarterly and end of year reporting that is required. It is estimated that there are about 120 of these facilities. Forms for reporting have been developed and will be sent out to CO and FO for review in the next few weeks. At this time be sure and track the NPDES permits in the NPDES database.

Public Hearings for public input on a rule proposal that would limit liquid manure application on soybean ground-These public hearings are scheduled as follows:

2/6/07 at 5 p.m. in the Coralville Public Library

2/7/07 at 1 p.m. in the Wallace Building 5th floor conf. room

2/8/07 at 10 a.m in the Carroll Co. Courthouse meeting room

2/8/07 at 4 p.m. in the Orange City Public Library downstairs meeting room

Gene will be representing the department at these hearings and he and Ken both stated it would be a good idea for one FO person to attend each of these meetings in your area.

Shortened Time for Nonsubmittal and Incomplete Submittal of MMP's-

The DNR has recently updated the animal feeding operations database for producers who need a manure management plan (MMP). This allows the DNR to track MMP submittals and send referrals for MMPs that are

more than one month late. For example, if a plan was due Jan. 1, the DNR will notify the producer after Jan. 10, and then refer the producer for an administrative penalty if the plan has not been received by the last day in January. Penalties for a late plan can be more than \$3,000 and the DNR will conduct annual on-site MMP inspections after a producer has been referred. Producers who submit incomplete updates or plans will have 10 working days to submit the needed information. This was sent out as a press release and as a listserve item. AA's are now implementing this procedure.

Des Moines Records-are now filed by facility number. With this new system it is imperative that staff be careful about adding a new facility to the database. If facilities are merged or deleted records needs to know this so that files are not misnumbered. You must contact Bea Adamson with any changes such as those listed.

Master Matrix Points-If a facility claims master matrix points for an item or separation distance that will become a condition of the construction permit, that distance must be maintained. An example from one office was that a facility claimed they would construct the well two times the separation distance or 200 feet from the facility. The well was dug 110 feet from the facility. If the permit is final the facility must go back through the permitting process and remove that item from the matrix or plug that well and construct another at the correct distance.

Nutrient Planner-The planner is not done yet, some areas are not calculating correctly, so it will be awhile before it's available for use. NRCS reported that RUSLE continues to change with soil type and ratings being reviewed, so this will need to be incorporated into the planner as well. They are thinking about adding a box that you can check to just do an MMP and not have to submit all the extra information that is required for a CNMP or an NMP.

NMP- The form is done but is being reviewed by producer groups at this time. Their comments are due by 2/1/07 and after they are considered the NMP will be posted on the website. If a producer needs the NMP prior to that time they may contact Jeremy Klatt to email them a copy of what we are using at this time.

Pork Congress-is next week according to Karen and the DNR staff she has working are Dan O. for Wed. morning, Tom M. for Wed. afternoon, Gene T. for Thursday morning and Jeff P. for Thursday afternoon. If anyone else has a desire to work or attend please let Karen know soon.

Open Cattlelot Registrations-we are done with this registration process, so if your office receives one (<1,000 head) just enter them in the database and make a file. Do an onsite review at the time your office is looking at these smaller lots.

The next Ag Conference Call will be on Wednesday February 21st at 9 a.m. Please mark your calendars.

Submitted by Cindy Martens